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FORT FRANCES DISTRICT
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN
1986 - 2000

DRAFT

PREFACE

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This document describes the fisheries management strategies and tactics which collectively form the Fort Frances District fisheries management plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide concise direction for fisheries management efforts within the Fort Frances District to the year 2000. This plan was developed around the achievement of fisheries targets established in the District Land Use Guidelines and has a firm foundation based on public consultation and accepted fisheries management principles and practices. In addition, this plan provides a measure against which the Fort Frances District fisheries management program can be compared by both the public and local fisheries managers.

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this management plan is to describe the direction of fisheries management efforts within the Fort Frances District to the year 2000. More specifically, it describes those fisheries management actions to be carried out on the basis of 5 year intervals.

PLANNING AREA

The Fort Frances District fisheries management plan pertains to all waterbodies within the Fort Frances Administrative District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Fig. 1). Intensive management efforts have been identified for Rainy Lake in recognition of its contribution to the fisheries potential and angling opportunities in the District.

PLANNING PROCESS

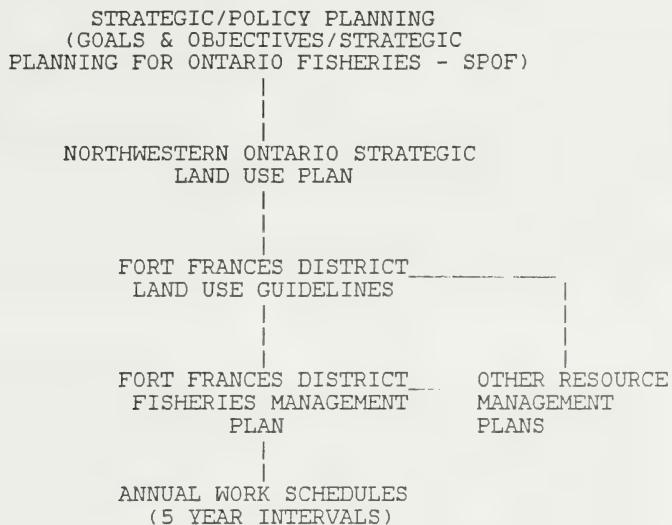
District fisheries management planning is undertaken within the resource planning and management system of the Ministry of Natural Resources (Fig. 2). Broad program direction for the optimization of resource use to achieve established objectives is provided in the Northwestern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan (NWSLUP). The Fort Frances District Land Use Guidelines (DLUG), while adhering to this policy direction, identify appropriate land and water areas within the District WHERE Ministry programs will be carried out and establishes program objectives and targets. District fisheries management plans describe HOW the fisheries resources will be managed to achieve program objectives and targets.

Described in this fisheries management plan are detailed management strategies which indicate HOW the Ministry intends to manage the fisheries resources of the Fort Frances District to the year 2000. The implementation of specific management tactics, inherent to the achievement of these strategies, is described in a management schedule for 5 year operating periods. Annual fisheries work program plans will be developed in accordance with the implementation schedule and will describe the actual fisheries management operations to be conducted in a particular year.



**Figure 1: Northwestern Administrative Region And
Administrative Districts.**

Figure 2: District Fisheries Management Planning And The Ministry of Natural Resources Planning System.



POLICY AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION

This management plan has been prepared according to Ministry policy. Specific policy direction was provided through the Fort Frances District Land Use Guidelines. In addition, the operational components of this plan will, where appropriate, conform to the policy and legislative requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act (R.S.O. 1975).

Technical direction was provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources Planning Manual For District Fisheries Management Plans. All management strategies and tactics satisfy the principles stated in the Strategic Plan for Ontario Fisheries (SPOF) and are consistent with accepted fisheries management principles and practices.

DETAILED BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY DOCUMENTS

A background document has been prepared which contains detailed information necessary for the development of a fisheries management plan which adequately addresses Fort Frances District fisheries needs and concerns. A document

which summarizes the background information and introduces optional management strategies has also been prepared and was presented to the public in an open house. Both documents are available for public review at the District office.

INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Integration of the fisheries management plan with other district programs was achieved through a planning team consisting of representatives from timber management, lands management, wildlife management, fisheries management and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. The planning team was responsible for the review and evaluation of the summary document and draft management plan to ensure that fisheries management recommendations were consistent with the direction of other programs.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A series of open houses will comprise the primary forum for public input to the fisheries management planning process. An open house which presented a summarization of background fisheries information and introduced optional management strategies to the public for their review and comment has already been conducted. Open houses to allow the public to review and comment on the draft fisheries management plan will also be held. In addition to the open houses, meetings were held with representatives of various interest groups to deal with specific problems and issues.

All public comments from the summary document open house were considered in the development of the draft plan. Public comments were first categorized by section of the summary document to which they pertained. Within each section comments pertaining to similar topics were collated. Comments were then evaluated in terms of their economic feasibility, pertinence to the subject, legal acceptability, social acceptability, consistency with fisheries management principles and policy, complexity, environmental impacts and administrative requirements. Public comments from the draft management plan open house will be considered in the same manner.

GLOSSARY

Certain terminology used in portions of this draft plan may be unfamiliar to some readers. For clarification of the meaning of such terminology the reader is referred to the glossary in Appendix 1.

DISTRICT FISHERIES PERSPECTIVE

FISHERIES RESOURCES

There are 3,240 lakes within the Fort Frances District with a total surface area of 233,200 hectares. Warmwater lakes comprise approximately 66% of the total lake surface area. Rainy lake is the most prominent warmwater lake comprising 30% of the total lake surface area (Fig. 3). Coldwater lakes comprise approximately 34% of the total lake surface area. In addition, there are 14 major rivers within the district.

The major fish species inhabiting lakes and rivers within the district are walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, lake trout, lake whitefish, black crappie, yellow perch, smallmouth bass and lake sturgeon.

The total potential yield of all fish species from all waterbodies within the district is 626,813 kg/yr (Table 1). Rainy Lake is estimated to produce 190,539 kg of fish annually or 30% of the total district potential yield. Approximately 63% of the total potential yield are sportfish species (walleye, northern pike, lake trout, black crappie and smallmouth bass).

CURRENT AND PROJECTED RESOURCE USE

The key users of the fisheries resources in the Fort Frances District are as follows (arranged in alphabetical order):

- (i) anglers - residents of Ontario
 - non-residents of Ontario

Rainy Lake data makes the distinction between non-residents who have a base of operations in Ontario (ie. own property, or use established tourist facilities) and those who do not (daytrippers). The data for other district lakes does not have this degree of resolution and only makes the distinction between residents and non-residents.

- (ii) commercial fishermen (bait)
- (iii) commercial fishermen (food)
- (iv) native people (subsistence harvesting)

Anglers

Approximately 86% of the anglers using district lakes are non-residents. The major sportfish species sought by anglers are; walleye, northern pike, lake trout, black crappie and smallmouth bass. The most preferred warmwater and coldwater species are walleye and lake trout respectively.

FIGURE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF WARMWATER AND COLDWATER LAKES.

M.N.R. Surveyed Lakes

- Warmwater
- Coldwater



The total angler harvest of sportfish from Rainy Lake was estimated at 73,493 kg in 1984 (Table 1). Non-residents accounted for 86% (63,521 kg) of this harvest. Non-Ontario based and Ontario based non-residents accounted for 45% and 41% of the sportfish harvest respectively. Angler harvests represent 48% of the total harvest of sportfish from Rainy Lake. Angler-days generated by resident and non-resident anglers in 1984 were 8,928 and 55,301 respectively.

Resident angler effort (angler-days) and harvest is expected to remain at 1984 levels to the year 2000. The Crownland Recreation and Angler Validation Tag Programs are likely to have an effect on non-resident numbers.

The total annual angler harvest of sportfish from other district lakes was estimated to be 300,200 kg in 1984 (Table 1). Non-resident anglers accounted for 86.6% (260,083 kg) of this harvest. Data is insufficient to distinguish Ontario-based or non-Ontario-based non-resident numbers. Angler harvests of sportfish represent 97% of the total harvest of sportfish from district lakes. Resident angler effort (angler-days) is expected to remain stable to the year 2000. Non-resident angler effort (angler-days) is expected to increase by 25% to the year 2000 based on trends in past effort data (Provincial Angler Surveys). The influence of the Crownland Recreation Program on non-resident activity is yet unquantified.

The tourist industry within the district is extensively developed on all larger lakes in the district with non-residents being the primary clientele. There are currently 76 commercial lodges operating in the district with guest capacities ranging from 20 to 60 persons per lodge (Fig. 4). Rainy Lake currently supports 18 commercial lodges (Fig. 5). In addition, there are currently 95 outpost camps located on 46 lakes.

Commercial Fishing (Bait)

There are 107 baitfish blocks in the Fort Frances District. In 1984 these blocks were allocated to 56 baitfish licencees.

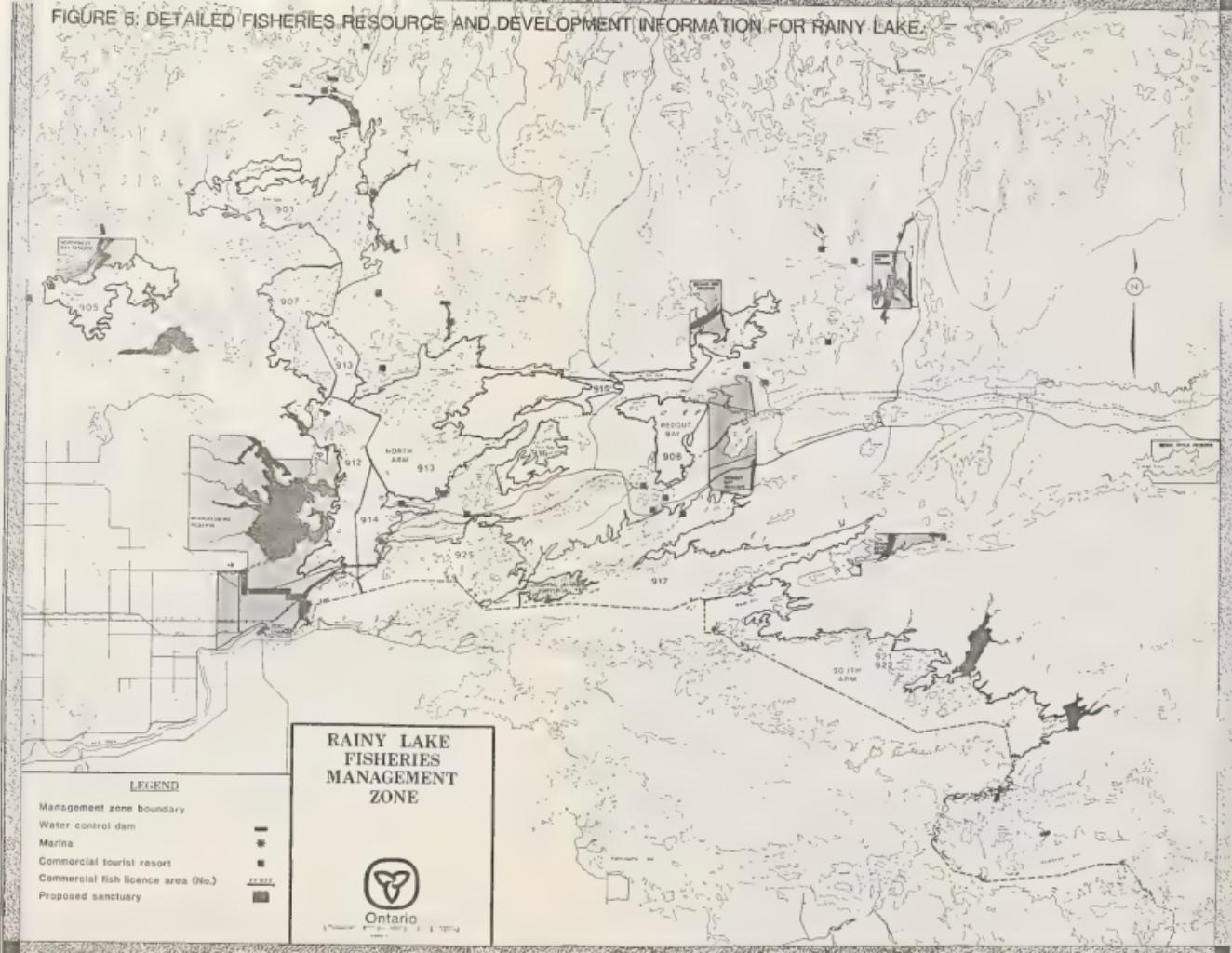
The average reported baitfish harvest for the period from 1978 to 1984 is 242,521 dozen. Since non-resident angler effort is expected to increase by 25% to the year 2000, the demand for baitfish is expected to increase to 270,250 dozen (Table 1).

FIGURE 4: DETAILED FISHERIES RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FOR THE FORT FRANCES DISTRICT.

- Proposed Road
- Commercially Fished Lakes
- Walleye Spawning Area
- Northern Pike Spawning Area
- Commercial Lodge
- Outpost Camp



FIGURE 5. DETAILED FISHERIES RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FOR RAINY LAKE



Commercial Fishing (Food)

In 1985, 10 waterbodies were commercially fished in the Fort Frances District (Fig. 4 and 5). Species harvested include; walleye, northern pike, lake whitefish, lake sturgeon, yellow perch and black crappie. White suckers, lake herring and burbot are taken incidentally but the harvests of these species can be substantial.

Commercial harvests of sportfish from Rainy Lake totalled 62,768 kg in 1984 (Table 1). Commercial harvests of sportfish from other district lakes totalled 3,550 kg in 1984. Commercial harvests of sportfish on Rainy Lake and other district lakes represent 42.7% and 1.1% of the total sportfish harvests respectively.

Native Subsistence Harvests

Of the 13 reserves located within the district, 7 are inhabited by 1,437 people. Approximately 60% of the district's native population rely on Rainy Lake to satisfy their subsistence needs. Other waterbodies used for subsistence fishing include; Rainy River, Manomin River and Seine River.

Native people are estimated to harvest 10,758 and 6,833 kg of sportfish per year from Rainy Lake and other district lakes respectively (Table 1). Native subsistence harvests of sportfish represent 7.3% and 2.2% of the total harvests of sportfish from these waterbodies. Due to projected native population increases, subsistence harvests from Rainy Lake are expected to increase to 23,976 kg/yr by the year 2000. Subsistence harvests on other district lakes are expected to increase to 15,561 kg by the year 2000.

OVERVIEW

It is apparent from Table 1 that current and projected demand by all user groups exceeds the ability of district waters to produce sportfish on a sustained yield basis. Illegal harvests which cannot be accurately estimated accentuate the overharvesting problem. While a district overharvest situation exists, not all sportfish species in all lakes are being overharvested. The problem appears most acute for walleye in the North Arm of Rainy Lake where the stocks are also stressed by localized spawning habitat degradation, water level fluctuations and alterations in fish community structure. The seriousness of the walleye overharvest in Rainy Lake is emphasized by the fact that walleye in the North Arm are providing a fishery well below potential yield. Northern pike are not considered to be overharvested at this time because the decline in walleye

Table 1: Estimated Potential Yield And Current and Projected Use By Species, Fort Frances District.

LAKE	SPECIES	ESTIMATED POTENTIAL YIELD (KG/YR)	CURRENT USE (KG/YR)	*PROJECTED USE TO THE YEAR 2000 (KG/YR)
RAINY	WALLEYE	47,635	53,324	55,911
	N. PIKE	36,202	67,946	70,533
	WHITEFISH	36,202	31,524	34,111
	SM BASS		8,590	9,016
	SM BASS & CRAPPIE	51,446		17,159
	CRAPPIE			17,584
	Y. PERCH	19,054		
	SUBTOTAL	190,539	178,543	187,155
DISTRICT LAKES (EXCLUD. RAINY LAKE)	WALLEYE	92,375	140,254	178,684
	N. PIKE	95,855	79,831	103,786
	WHITEFISH	34,427	21,339	23,099
	SM BASS		45,281	56,912
	SM BASS & CRAPPIE	41,720		263
	CRAPPIE			410
	Y. PERCH	21,526		
	L. TROUT	30,102	44,954	54,418
	SUBTOTAL	316,005	331,922	417,309
TOTAL DISTRICT	WALLEYE	140,010	193,578	234,595
	N. PIKE	132,057	147,777	174,319
	WHITEFISH	70,629	52,863	57,210
	SM BASS		53,871	65,928
	SM BASS & CRAPPIE	93,166		
	CRAPPIE	40,580	17,422	17,995
	Y. PERCH			
	L. TROUT	30,102	44,954	54,418
	SUBTOTAL	506,544	510,465	604,465
OTHER SPECIES		120,269		
	TOTAL	626,813		

* PROJECTED USE INDICATES THE EXTENT OF HARVESTING BY SPECIES THAT WILL OCCUR UNDER CURRENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

* SPORTFISH INCLUDES WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE, SMALLMOUTH BASS AND BLACK CRAPPIE.

stocks appears to have permitted greater production of this species. This situation will be monitored to ensure that this is indeed the case.

On lakes other than Rainy Lake the overharvesting problem is much more extensive and includes lake trout, walleye and smallmouth bass. Of greatest concern is overharvesting of the lake trout resource which has a limited ability to withstand elevated harvest levels. Overharvesting of walleye and smallmouth bass is of concern from the perspective of stock maintenance but also because of the contribution of these species to resident and non-resident angling opportunities. Exploitive pressure on district lakes is related to road access created by expanding timber extraction activities and the philosophy of anglers that road access, once created, should be maintained for their use.

It is apparent that fisheries management in the Fort Frances District will require a multi-faceted approach to ensure long term provision of fish and fishing opportunities. First and foremost, there must be acceptance of, and commitment to fisheries management based on the concept of potential yields. It is on this basis that all modern fisheries management programs are predicated. Acceptance of this principle then requires a reduction in exploitation levels so as to align actual harvests with potential yields. Failing to effectively regulate harvest levels will certainly cause a reduction in angling opportunities and fishing quality for certain species and could precipitate stock collapses.

While a reduction in harvest levels is required it does not necessarily mean a reduction in fishing opportunities. One approach is to promote the use of underutilized species. On Rainy Lake smallmouth bass, crappie and yellow perch are underutilized. On other district lakes whitefish, yellow perch and possibly smallmouth bass could also be utilized to a greater extent.

Another alternative involves the development of management programs based on angler acceptance of fishing quality below the current quality standard of 2.0 kg of fish kept per angler-day. This alternative would allow maintenance of a greater number of angling opportunities from available fisheries resources but could still involve the use of underutilized species. Fishing quality could be enhanced at this level through the use of less fatal fishing practices associated with catch and release, trophy or slot size fisheries. These fisheries require detailed lake specific data in the setup phase and therefore are not applicable to species that are experiencing widespread overharvesting such as lake trout and walleye but could be developed within the context of experimental management on a limited basis.

Effective harvest management in the Fort Frances district is conditional upon maintaining aquatic habitats which are for the most part considered to be in good shape. There are a few exceptions which will require rehabilitation.

To achieve a reduction in exploitation and to maintain aquatic habitats, the district will require additional resource and use information, greater enforcement effort to ensure compliance and a mechanism by which the effects of management strategies and tactics can be monitored and evaluated.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

INTRODUCTION

An overview of the major elements of the Fort Frances fisheries management plan is provided in Fig. 6. A broad objective was broken down into three specific management objectives in the District Land Use Planning exercise: sportfish, commercial fish and lake trout. Associated with each specific objective are management targets which quantify the user demands to be satisfied. The fisheries management plan works within the framework of these objectives using resource information to refine the targets and sets out strategies and tactics to achieve them.

Figure 6: Relationship between fisheries management objectives, targets, strategies and tactics.

***** DISTRICT LAND USE GUIDELINES *****

BROAD MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

SPORTFISH
OBJECTIVE

COMMERCIAL FISH
OBJECTIVE

LAKE TROUT
OBJECTIVE

FOOD
OBJECTIVE

BAIT
OBJECTIVE

***** FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN *****

TARGET

TARGET

TARGET

TARGET

STRATEGIES

STRATEGIES

STRATEGIES

STRATEGIES

TACTICS

TACTICS

TACTICS

TACTICS

BROAD FISHERIES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

To protect, rehabilitate, enhance and maintain the district's fish communities and their environment to provide an optimum contribution of fish, fishing opportunities and associated benefits to society.

SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

This section describes the strategies and tactics that will be used to achieve very specific management objectives and targets. Associated with each target is a discussion of the problems that must be solved by the management strategies and tactics to permit achievement of the target and the overall objective. Following the statement of strategies and tactics is a discussion of the rationale for their recommendation. Both discussions deal with public comments from the summary document open house.

LAKE TROUT

OBJECTIVE

To provide for the maintenance, protection and enhancement of lake trout populations and to provide recreational angling opportunities to the general public for this species, based on the estimated potential yield.

TARGET

To produce 30,102 kg of lake trout per year.

This target represents a refinement of the DLUG target statement and is based on the potential yield of lake trout.

PROBLEMS

Lake trout are extremely sensitive to exploitation due to their slow growth and low fecundity which is in part related to the low productivity of the waters they inhabit. It is because of this sensitivity and their importance to anglers that the achievement of the district lake trout target is of immediate concern. It appears that the angling public recognizes this sensitivity and the need for more intensive management.

The most significant lake trout management problem is related to angler harvests which exceed the capability of district waters to produce lake trout. Continued harvesting at current levels has a high probability of causing stock failures over the long term. Resident anglers recognize this problem and attribute its development to expanding road access and non-resident harvests. Comments indicate that lake trout harvests are greatest during the winter months when access to lake trout lakes is facilitated by the use of snowmobiles. The district also recognizes the substantial contribution of the early spring fishery to total annual lake trout harvests. Tourist industry comments suggest a similar perception although they offer no reasons for overharvesting.

Extensive tourist industry development, commercial boat caches and an expanding road network in the vicinity of lake trout lakes have contributed to overharvesting of lake trout. The DLUG document recognized this problem and indicated the need to curtail further expansion of tourist facilities based on the consumptive use of lake trout.

In localized situations where tourist outfitter operations exist that depend upon the lake trout resource, there is evidence of conflicts between this user group and other anglers. These conflicts have resulted from past road development which resulted in a relatively unrestricted fishery. The tourist industry firmly believes that road access control is essential to maintaining the viability of their operations because it protects a sense of "remoteness" and ensures quality fishing opportunities. Conversely, resident anglers believe that road access, once created, should be maintained for their use. The district recognizes this problem and is committed to protecting existing tourism values through the access road planning policy. In situations where tourism values do not exist the district will permit the development road access to provide for a better distribution of angling pressure.

The natural character of the shoreline of lake trout lakes is an important aspect of the angling experience and is highly valued by the tourist industry operations. Timber harvesting operations and other resource extraction activities can disrupt the natural character of the shorelines. Consideration of this aspect is dealt with through application of the "areas of concern" concept within the timber management planning process.

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF STRATEGIES

To provide for the maintenance and/or rehabilitation of lake trout stocks while ensuring protection of critical aquatic habitats and minimizing resource extraction impacts on recreational angling quality.

Maintain and/or rehabilitate lake trout stocks by;

- i/ Implementing a program to assess the annual harvest and distribution of lake trout angling pressure with emphasis on quantification of the influence of the Crownland Recreation Program on angler activity.

- ii/ Implementing annual creel limits of 15 and 7 lake trout for residents and Ontario-based non-residents respectively if the Crownland Recreation Program does not prove to be an effective tool in reducing lake trout harvests to the level of potential yield. A lake trout licence is a possible mechanism for implementing this tactic and is not necessarily conditional on a resident angling licence.
- iii/ Promoting the use of alternate species such as northern pike, lake whitefish and yellow perch through public relations programs (brochures, seminars etc) developed in conjunction with the tourist industry. Inherent is the need to assess the utilization of alternative species which can be accomplished through the assessment program (see Tactic i).
- iv/ Protecting brood stock through closure of the lake trout season on September 15. This tactic would ensure less selective harvesting of lake trout.
- v/ Increasing law enforcement efforts related to lake trout through input into the development of a district enforcement plan, increased officer presence on heavily used waterbodies and development of programs to stimulate public awareness and cooperation.
- vi/ Curtailing any further expansion of tourist facilities based on the consumptive use of lake trout consistent with the DLUG recommendations which indicate that there is no expansion potential for tourist facilities. Tourist facilities include commercial boat caches. Insufficient fisheries resources to support existing tourist facilities may require individual lake management strategies which permit sharing of the resources between user groups (Loonhaunt, Pipestone).

Protect critical aquatic habitats by;

- vii/ Continuing to protect fish habitat through the application of fish habitat guidelines particularly in so far as timber management planning is concerned.
- viii/ Continuing the lake survey program but expanding data collection efforts in the areas of population assessment and habitat quantification.

Minimize the impacts of resource extraction activities (timber harvesting, mining, peat extraction) on recreational angling quality by;

- ix/ Continuing to make input to resource extraction proposals using current policies and guidelines (access road planning policy, fish habitat guidelines, forthcoming tourism guidelines, integrated resource management policy).
- x/ Controlling road access to protect tourism values in specific situations where it is practical, effective and consistent with other resource management plans and policies. In areas where no tourism values exist the district will consider expanding road access for the distribution of angling pressure over a larger area.

DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIES, TACTICS AND PUBLIC INPUT

All user groups recognized the need for tighter control of lake trout harvests; however there was no agreement on the strategies or tactics to achieve effective harvest regulation.

Prior to implementation of the Crownland Recreation Program data indicated that overharvesting of lake trout was occurring. Before implementing any new harvest control tactics the effectiveness of the Crownland Recreation Program in reducing lake trout harvests will be evaluated. If in the event that additional harvest controls are required the district intends to move towards a new concept of annual creel limits. Annual creel limits are deemed to be most effective because it allows control of the upper limit of the harvest. In addition, this tactic requires fewer supporting regulations such as season closures to achieve harvesting at the level of potential yield. It is the district's position to remain consistent with the direction of the Crownland Recreation and Angler Validation Tag programs which emphasized control over non-Ontario based non-resident angling activity. Therefore should the need arise annual creel limits would permit residents and non-residents based in Ontario to fish for lake trout through a licencing system. This would preclude non-Ontario based non-residents from angling for lake trout. The annual creel limit for residents would be higher than for Ontario-based non-residents.

Another tactic suggested to reduce lake trout harvests was the manipulation of daily limits. Resident anglers have suggested that the daily limit for lake trout be reduced. However, the tourist industry felt that any change in daily limits would adversely affect their businesses. The most serious limitation associated with a daily limit reduction, for example from 3 to 2 fish, is that a proportional reduction (30%) in the harvest is not achieved. This is due

to the predilection of anglers to compensate by increasing their number of trips to maintain their overall harvest and the fact that daily limits are not always taken. Should annual creel limits be necessary, daily limits will be maintained at 3 lake trout per person per day.

A common management tactic suggested by anglers to support a harvest control strategy are season changes. A great variety of season reductions were suggested including season closures. Season reductions tend to concentrate angling pressure into a shorter time frame and may cause a harvest increase rather than a decrease in certain situations. Season closures imposed on a broad basis, while effective in reducing harvest, would eliminate angling opportunities and this is not the intent of management efforts. Shortened or closed seasons would reduce or eliminate viable winter tourist operations and resident angler opportunities based on lake trout. However, on a lake specific basis where lake trout stocks are threatened with extirpation a season closure may be the most effective way of protecting the remaining stocks. Season manipulation has proven ineffective for widespread regulation of angler harvests and will not be used for this purpose by the district.

Season manipulation does have a place in management when the objective is to protect components of the lake trout population when they are most vulnerable to harvesting. Concern has been expressed that harvesting of lake trout during the fall when they are congregating on the spawning shoals is resulting in the removal of large numbers of mature fish. The district recommends that the lake trout season be closed on September 15 to protect spawning individuals.

Lake closures on an alternating basis can be a useful tactic for influencing the distribution of angling pressure. This tactic is most useful on larger waterbodies whose annual production can support a high level of exploitation on years when the fisheries are open. The usefulness of this tactic for lake trout management in Fort Frances district is compromised by the extensive distribution of tourist facilities. The use of alternating lake closures would mean that certain businesses would only operate in some years. The alternate closure of small lake trout lakes which do not support tourist facilities is not considered viable because they are few in number and there is a high probability of excessive harvesting in years when they are open to angling. The district will not be considering the use of alternating lake closures at this time.

Anglers and the tourist industry perceive lake trout stocking as a viable alternative to harvest regulation. This tactic is applicable only in situations where lake trout stocks have collapsed or are producing a levels well below potential yield. These situations do not occur in the Fort Frances

district. Further, there are no lakes which are barren and which would permit the establishment of lake trout populations through stocking.

Anglers have also suggested that other species could be stocked to provide alternative angling opportunities to lake trout. Stocking of other species, such a brook trout, to achieve a reduction in the lake trout harvest would have to be very extensive. In addition, it has been demonstrated that anglers simply expand, rather than shift, their harvesting to encompass the new opportunities. Stocking other species is not considered a viable substitute for effective harvest control.

The use of alternative species, which are indigenous to the district and widely distributed such as lake whitefish, for reducing lake trout harvests has received limited attention by the public. Within the context of lake trout harvest reduction the use of these species would help to maintain fishing opportunities. The tourist industry supports this tactic to some extent but is concerned that overharvesting of these species will develop. The district is aware of this concern and would implement monitoring programs to ensure this situation does not develop.

Public comments pertaining to law enforcement and legislative controls for fisheries management are also limited. It appears that user groups would like to see a greater level of enforcement directed towards lake trout. However, certain anglers and the tourist industry do not want any further legislative regulation. These comments seem contradictory when considered in relation to lake trout management problems. If the Crownland Recreation Program proves to be ineffective in reducing lake trout harvests, changes in regulation (ie. annual creel limits) will be necessary.

Access control as a means of harvest regulation has evoked opposing views from resident anglers and the tourist industry. The tourist industry strongly advocates access control for the preservation of the opportunities which they market. Conversely, resident anglers would prefer maintenance and expansion of existing access roads to facilitate their use of the lake trout resource. There is a consensus by both of these groups that access control should not be used to designate lakes for use by a single user group. These comments indicate the need for tourist industry and resident angler recognition of the fact that fisheries resources must be shared at an appropriate level.

The practicality of access control measures for limiting lake trout harvests in the district is confounded by the extensively developed road network and traditional angler use of these roads. Therefore, attempts to regulate lake trout harvests would require widespread access controls and would

result in extreme expenditures, elevated user conflicts and the loss of angling opportunities. Prediction of the effects of access control on lake trout harvests is difficult and would prevent the application of this tactic in many situations. Other management tactics such as annual creel limits are more effective in limiting harvests yet do not produce drastic reductions in angling opportunities. The district will not apply widespread access control measures for lake trout harvest regulation. Controls that are applied will be consistent with access road planning policy and will strive to protect existing tourism based values. Access will be increased in some areas to cause a redistribution of angling pressure away from heavily used lake trout lakes.

Resource extraction impacts on aesthetic components of the angling experience will continue to be minimized through input to resource extraction proposals using the forthcoming tourism guidelines. Protection of critical lake trout habitats will continue through the use of provincial fish habitat protection guidelines with adjustments to accommodate local situations. Enhanced assessment efforts will be required to upgrade the habitat inventory data base to ensure effective use of the guidelines. Cooperation of anglers and the tourist industry in the provision of information is necessary for the development of a complete data base.

Limiting cottage or tourism developments on lake trout lakes has been suggested by the public but not within the context of solving any specific management problems. The District Land Use Guidelines recognize that tourist facilities are extensively developed on lake trout lakes and that the lake trout resource base is fully utilized. The district will remain consistent with the District Land Use Guidelines and will not permit the establishment of new commercial tourist facilities based on consumptive use of the lake trout resource. Harvesting by clientele using existing facilities, particularly outpost camps, will be evaluated in relation to fisheries resource availability. Insufficient fisheries resources to support existing facilities may require individual lake management strategies which permit the sharing of resources and could involve a number of different harvest control strategies ie. specific lake limits, bait restrictions, gear restrictions. Harvest problems associated with commercial boat caches will be dealt with on a lake by lake basis as per guidelines currently under development.

SPORTFISH

OBJECTIVE

To meet the demand for sportfishing consistent with the potential yield.

TARGET

To satisfy angling demand through the provision of up to 319,000 kg of sportfish per year.

PROBLEMS

Anglers recognize that walleye harvests from Rainy Lake are at levels which could jeopardize this resource and the angling opportunities derived from it over the long term. On district lakes public concern is focused on overharvesting of walleye. In particular, the public has indicated that walleye population declines have become apparent on Despair Lake, Footprint Lake and Caliper Lake. Preliminary data indicates that walleye are being overharvested on district lakes. Similarly, preliminary data suggests that lake sturgeon are being overharvested particularly on Rainy River. The district would like to quantify the extent of these overharvests before implementing harvest control measures.

On Rainy Lake non-residents and the commercial fishery contribute substantially to annual sportfish harvests. On district waters the majority of harvests are attributable to non-residents many of which are associated with tourist establishments. Residents contend that intensive harvest controls should be applied to those groups responsible for the majority of harvests. Of particular concern is the non-Ontario-based non-resident who is believed to contribute little to the Ontario based economy but harvest substantial numbers of fish. There is also the recognition of the effect of road access on the distribution and intensity of angling pressure within the district.

In addition, anglers feel that native subsistence fishing activities should be more strictly regulated during the spring when fish are moving to their spawning areas. Anglers have also suggested that the current season for walleye is too liberal and contributes substantially to the harvest of pre and post spawning fish.

The local sportsman's club has expressed concern about the possible degradation of stream habitats in the vicinity of road crossings. Limited concern was also expressed about the impacts of timber harvesting on lake shorelines. On Rainy Lake anglers recognize that there are localized habitat problems related to the degradation of spawning habitats particularly in the North Arm. In addition, anglers have indicated that the effects of water level fluctuations on walleye spawning success in Rainy Lake and other district lakes are a management concern.

Anglers appear to recognize that crappie seem to be replacing walleye in the fish community of Rainy Lake and suggest that smallmouth bass also have an impact on walleye populations. The relationship between walleye, crappie and bass is not

clear but the interaction of these species could further stress walleye stocks. Angler comments related to fish community changes suggest the desire to see Rainy Lake managed as a walleye fishery primarily. Therefore, the district intends to focus management efforts on the rehabilitation of walleye stocks and this may mean a reduction in crappie and bass populations.

On district lakes user conflicts are related to the different perceptions of the tourist industry and anglers over the level of road access control. The problem is finding a balance between the need to protect tourist based values (low angler density) and the need to ensure access to the fisheries resource for other anglers. The district recognizes road access concerns and is committed to protecting existing tourism values through the access road planning policy. In situations where tourism values do not exist the district will permit road access to provide for a better distribution of angling pressure. On Rainy Lake conflicts are related to multi-user demand for similar, but limited, species.

The natural character of the shoreline on district lakes is an important aspect of the recreational angling experience and is highly valued by the tourist industry. Timber harvesting operations and other resource extraction activities can disrupt the natural character of shorelines. Consideration of this aspect is dealt with through input and review of resource extraction proposals, particularly the timber management plans.

The angling public also perceives a need to increase enforcement of existing regulations and governmental commitment to law enforcement.

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF STRATEGIES

To maintain and/or rehabilitate sportfish stocks while ensuring the protection of critical aquatic habitats and minimizing impacts of resource extraction activities on recreational angling quality.

RAINY LAKE

Maintain and/or rehabilitate sportfish stocks by;

- i/ Continuing assessment programs to accurately quantify the effectiveness of the Angler Validation Tag program for limiting walleye harvests by non-Ontario based non-residents and to monitor the status of fish populations.

- ii/ Manipulating angler validation tag fees, tag numbers or walleye limits taken under the authority of a validation tag if the current angler validation tag program is insufficient in limiting walleye harvests by non-Ontario based non-residents.
- iii/ Establishing slot size restrictions for northern pike.
- iv/ Examining the need for a reduction in the daily black crappie limit to 25.
- v/ Establishing sanctuaries (March 15 to May 31) on the following walleye spawning areas: Wasaw Creek, Halfway Inlet, Lyons Bay, Devils Cascades, Big Canoe River, Little Canoe River, Footprint River, Stanjikoming Bay, and Stokes Bay.
- vi/ Establishing sanctuaries (March 15 to May 31) on the following northern pike spawning areas: Rat Root Bay, Grassy Narrows Bay, Black Sturgeon Bay and Rat River Bay.
- vii/ Expanding the walleye culture and stocking program to achieve an annual fingerling production target of 100,000. This program includes assessment of the effects of stocking on North Arm walleye populations.
- viii/ Promoting the use of alternative species such as yellow perch, smallmouth bass and black crappie through public relations programs (brochures, seminars etc) developed in conjunction with the tourist industry.
- ix/ Increasing law enforcement efforts related to Rainy Lake sportfish through input into a Rainy Lake enforcement plan, assignment of a conservation officer to Rainy Lake specifically and development of public awareness programs through cooperation with the tourist industry and local angler groups.
- x/ Adherence to the DLUG directives which prohibit the establishment of new or expansion of existing tourist facilities on the North Arm. Tourism development on the South Arm of Rainy Lake Arm will be considered once the district deals with the existing walleye conservation issue.

Protect critical aquatic habitats by;

- xi/ Continuing to make input into the timber management planning process and other resource extraction proposals using the Fish Habitat Guidelines.

- xii/ Rehabilitating/improving walleye spawning areas at Wasaw Creek, Devils Cascades, Big Canoe River and Little Canoe River through the involvement of local clubs and the tourist industry in the Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP).
- xiii/ Expanding the habitat assessment program for monitoring of the limnological characteristics of Rainy Lake and identification of additional spawning areas.
- xiv/ Negotiating a change in the Rainy Lake water level "rule curve" with the International Joint Commission so that adequate water levels will be maintained during the walleye spawning and egg incubation period.

DISTRICT LAKES

Maintain and/or rehabilitate sportfish stocks by;

- i/ Implementing an assessment program to; monitor harvesting (creel census every 3 years) and fish population status, particularly walleye and to look at the influence of the Crownland Recreation Program on the distribution and level of angling pressure.
- ii/ Expanding the Angler Validation Tag Program which controls the angling activity of non-Ontario based non-residents to encompass district lakes if the Crownland Recreation Program does not prove to be an adequate method for limiting sportfish harvests.
- iii/ Evaluating the status of the sturgeon population in Rainy River in cooperation with Kenora District and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- iv/ Closure of the walleye season on March 15 to protect brood stocks.
- v/ Expanding walleye production in the district through adult transfers. Five candidate lakes have been identified (Eldridge, Vedette, Little Sawbill, Heron, Unknown 49 02' 93 14'). The district will investigate the suitability of these lakes for this purpose.
- vi/ Promoting the use of alternative species by; establishing black crappie and smallmouth bass populations in Big Sawbill Lake; promoting the use of northern pike, perch, whitefish and crappie through public relations programs developed through cooperation with the tourist industry and angler groups.

- vii/ Increasing law enforcement efforts related to sportfish other than lake trout through input into the development of a district enforcement plan, increased officer presence on heavily used waterbodies and development of public awareness programs developed in conjunction with the tourist industry and local angler groups.
- viii/ Curtailing any further expansion of tourist facilities based on the consumptive use of sportfish consistent with the DLUG recommendations which indicate that there is no potential for expanding tourist facilities on district lakes. Tourism facilities include commercial boat caches. Insufficient fisheries resources to support existing tourist facilities may require individual lake management strategies to permit sharing of the resources between user groups.
- ix/ Facilitating a redistribution of angling pressure by encouraging systematic road access development in specific areas consistent with the objectives of timber management planning.
- x/ Encouraging a university study of the interaction between walleye, black crappie and smallmouth bass.

Protect critical aquatic habitats by;

- xi/ Continuing to protect fish habitat through the application of the fish habitat guidelines particularly in so far as timber management planning is concerned.
- xii/ Continuing the lake survey program but expanding data collection efforts in the areas of population assessment and habitat quantification.
- xiii/ Rehabilitating or improving spawning habitats through the involvement of local angler groups and the tourist industry in the Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP). The sites for this work will require further investigation.

Minimize the impacts of resource extraction activities on recreational angling quality by;

- xiv/ Continuing to make input to resource extraction proposals using current policies and guidelines (access road planning policy, fish habitat guidelines, forthcoming tourism guidelines, integrated resource management policy).

- xv/ Controlling road access to protect tourism values in situations where it is practical, effective and is consistent with other resource management plans and policies. In areas where there are no tourism values the district will consider expanding road access for better distribution of angling pressure.

DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIES, TACTICS AND PUBLIC INPUT

When potential yields of sportfish species were compared to existing and projected harvest levels it raised a concern that overharvesting of certain species, particularly walleye, was occurring. However, the harvest data on district lakes is not sufficiently detailed to permit accurate management decisions to be made. At this time the only decision that has been made is that harvests will be managed on the basis of potential yield.

Before implementing any new harvest control tactics for walleye the district feels that it is necessary to evaluate the influence of existing programs on angling harvest of this species. The district is currently monitoring the performance of the Rainy Lake walleye fishery in relation to the current Angler Validation Tag Program. This program provides for a number of options which could be used to more tightly control walleye harvests should it be necessary (increased fees, control tag numbers, reduced species limits). On district lakes there is a preliminary indication that walleye overharvesting is occurring however; the Crownland Recreation Program is likely to have had some influence on this situation. The district feels it necessary to strengthen its data base on the walleye sport fishery on district lakes, with emphasis on measuring harvest levels and identifying the user groups. For district lakes it would be premature for the district to suggest harvest control tactics at this time.

Although the district is not prepared to initiate harvest controls for walleye until the assessments are complete, resident anglers and the tourist industry have indicated that they would endorse an increase in the angler validation tag fee and an expansion of the restricted camping zones under the Crownland Recreation Program. In particular they have suggested that Mainville Lake, Otter Bay, Obikoba Lake, Kenoze Lake, Arms Lake, Kawawia Lake, Scattergood Lake, Loonhaunt Lake and Kishkutena Lake be included within restricted camping zones. The district is reluctant to expand the restricted camping zones until an assessment of the influence of the Crownland Recreation Program on angler activity has been completed. It is possible that these zones may have significantly increased angling pressure on other lakes.

Anglers and the tourist industry have suggested daily limit manipulation as a means of harvest control for certain species other than northern pike and walleye. The tourist industry is particularly concerned about the overharvesting of crappie and muskellunge and have suggested limits of 25 and 1 respectively. The district will examine the need for a reduction in the black crappie limit on district waters and is currently considering a reduction in the limit to 25 on Rainy Lake. The district is managing Rainy Lake for walleye and is concerned that maintenance of the crappie population will hamper walleye rehabilitation efforts because of the interactions between the two species. The concern related to muskellunge is currently being addressed at the provincial level and it is anticipated that changes to the catch and possession limits will occur in 1987.

There were several tactics proposed to reduce the selective harvest of brood stock particularly for walleye. There was some consistency noted in angler and tourist industry suggestions for season changes. In general the suggestions pertained to an earlier closure of the walleye season for the protection of mature fish moving to spawning areas. The tourist industry, while supporting an earlier season closure, is strongly opposed to any alteration of season opening dates. Based on these suggestions, the district recommends that the walleye season be closed on March 15.

Sanctuaries will be established on known walleye and northern pike spawning areas to protect mature fish during springs when spawning is delayed. This would preclude the need for altering season opening dates. The establishment of sanctuaries, particularly on Rainy Lake, has the support of anglers and tourist industry.

Similarly, anglers and the tourist industry have indicated their support for stocking as an alternative to sportfish harvest regulation. The district will not be undertaking a large scale stocking program for the reasons discussed under lake trout management. On Rainy Lake the district intends to increase the annual stocking of walleye fingerlings to 100,000 to assist in rehabilitation of depressed walleye stocks. The district intends to improve or rehabilitate spawning habitat on Rainy Lake and other areas to increase natural spawning success. On other district lakes the district will consider on a very limited and experimental basis adult transfers of walleye and black crappie. Five candidate lakes have been identified for walleye transfers but their suitability for this purpose must be examined more closely. Big Sawbill Lake represents a situation where black crappie could be established.

The use of alternative species such as black crappie, smallmouth bass and yellow perch will assist in maintaining angling opportunities should our assessment of the walleye

harvest indicate the need for more intensive harvest control. Local anglers support the application of this tactic. However, the industry does not feel that they can market alternative species effectively. Nevertheless, the district feels that a diversified fishery is a more stable fishery and will promote the use of altenative species.

Although the number of comments pertaining to law enforcement are limited there does appear to be some concern about this aspect of sportfish management. The need for a greater level of enforcement on district lakes and Rainy Lake has been expressed. The Minister of Natural Resources recognizes this need and has made a committment for an additional enforcement officer on Rainy Lake in 1987. The tourist industry, while supportive of increased enforcement effort, does not want any further legislative regulation. To be realistic, more intensified management will require changes in legislation. If the Crownland Recreation and Angler Validation Tag Programs in their current form prove to be insufficient for limiting sportfish harvests then regulative changes related to these programs will be necessary. The district will also undertake to increase public awareness of management problems and to strengthen the publics conservation ethic.

The use of access control for sportfish harvest regulation has evoked user group opinions which were similar to those indicated for lake trout management. To reiterate briefly, the tourist industry strongly supports access controls for limiting angler numbers and preserving angling quality. Anglers prefer expansion and maintenance of existing access. Access controls for the protection of tourism values will only be implemented in specific situations where they are practical, effective and consistent with other resource management plans and policies (access road planning policy). Road access will be promoted in the Otukamamoan Lake and Turtle River areas to assist in the redistribution of angling pressure.

The district and the public want to promote better conservation practices by native bands. In particular, there is concern about native fishing with gill nets which interferes with spawning fish, particularly walleye. The province has indicated its intent to negotiate an agreement with native bands which deals with resource allocation and conservation. The terms of these negotiations are not known at this time.

Limiting development (tourist facilities, cottaging, mining etc.) on district lakes has been suggested but not within the context of solving any specific management problem. The district agrees that development should be intensively controlled so as not to cause elevations in fish harvest or habitat problems and will remain consistent with DLUG recommendations in this regard. Harvesting by clientele

using existing tourist facilities, particularly outpost camps, will be evaluated in relation to fisheries resource availability. Insufficient fisheries resources to support existing facilities (lodges, outpost camps, boat caches) may require individual lake management strategies which permit sharing of the resources.

Anglers and the tourist industry recognize that aquatic habitats must be protected to ensure the maintenance of sportfish production. Specifically, concern was expressed over protection of aquatic habitats in the vicinity of road crossings. Aquatic habitat protection will continue through input to the timber management planning process and use of provincial fish habitat protection guidelines to meet district needs. Similarly, there was a consensus on the need to improve or rehabilitate aquatic habitats with commitments by all groups to participate in the community fisheries involvement program (CFIP). Walleye spawning areas on Rainy Lake, Burditt Lake, Pickwick Lake, Nickel Lake and Seine River have been suggested for rehabilitation. Other anglers felt that there is a greater need to control pollution of aquatic habitats. In this regard the district will continue to enforce all appropriate acts and regulations and cooperate with other ministries (Ministry of the Environment) and agencies concerned with environmental protection.

The effect of water level fluctuations on walleye spawning success in Rainy Lake has been identified as a concern by the Fort Frances Sportsman's Club and the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club. Currently, water level fluctuations are controlled through guidelines established by the International Joint Commission (IJC). The district will undertake negotiations with the IJC for changes to the Rainy Lake water level "rule curve" so as to establish a water level of 1106.8 feet above mean sea level by May 1 with maintenance through to June 15.

COMMERCIAL FISH

BROAD OBJECTIVE

To encourage the harvest of commercial fish when it is biologically and economically feasible.

COMMERCIAL FISH (FOOD)

OBJECTIVE

To maintain, and where possible, to increase the commercial fish harvest from inland waters of the Northwestern Planning Region where it is biologically, economically and socially acceptable.

TARGET

To maintain commercial harvests on district waterbodies at the level of existing quotas.

On Rainy Lake changing social and economic factors related to the commercial fishery require revision of species quotas so as to make the commercial fishery more compatable with other uses.

PROBLEMS

Problems related to the achievement of the district commercial fish target pertain specifically to Rainy Lake. The district is not aware of any problems, nor did the public identify any problems, related to commercial fishing on other lakes. The most urgent problem on Rainy Lake is related to multi-user competition for walleye which produces harvests above estimated potential yield for this species. In addition, walleye stocks are stressed by localized spawning habitat degradation, water level fluctuations and alterations in fish community structure. Of the total annual harvest of walleye approximately 28% is attributable to the commercial fishery. The district and public are also aware of the large disparity in economic benefits that exists between commercial harvesting of walleye in comparison to harvesting by the sportfishery. Management strategies and tactics will be directed towards balancing walleye harvests with the potential yield. Decisions concerning the level of walleye harvests permitted by a particular user group must reflect the extent of economic and social benefits which accrue through use of this limited resource.

Conflicts between commercial fishermen and anglers, while apparent to fisheries managers, have not been specifically addressed by the public. However, public comments on management strategies and tactics related to the commercial fish target suggest that there are indeed conflicts.

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF STRATEGIES

To recognize traditional commercial fishing needs on Rainy Lake and other district lakes within the context of reducing user conflicts and maintaining and/or rehabilitating fish stocks for the optimization of social and economic benefits.

Recognize traditional commercial fishing needs by:

- i/ Maintaining existing species quotas for the commercial fisheries on lakes other than Rainy Lake.

Assist in the maintenance and/or rehabilitation of fish stocks by:

- ii/ Eliminating walleye quotas on Rainy Lake through governmental purchase or by trading walleye quotas for quotas on crappie and perch.
- iii/ Reducing the level of commercial fishing on Rainy Lake. Selected commercial fishing licences will be removed through governmental purchase (willing buyer/willing seller). The precise level will be determined through a review of current commercial licences.
- iv/ Maintain existing quotas for northern pike and lake whitefish on Rainy Lake until an assessment of the status of these stocks is completed.
- v/ Implementing a comprehensive monitoring program for Rainy Lake which will include intensified enforcement efforts and commercial harvest monitoring.
- vi/ Continuing assessment programs for evaluation of the status of fish stocks, particularly walleye, northern pike and lake whitefish stocks in the North Arm of Rainy Lake.
- vii/ Implementing a program for assessing the use of alternative gear. Commercial fishermen would cooperate in this program.
- viii/ Refining the commercial fish target stated in the DLUG document to reflect the elimination of walleye quotas and use of alternative species.

Minimization of user conflicts through:

- ix/ Implementation of those tactics indicated above.

DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIES, TACTICS AND PUBLIC INPUT

In addition to an awareness of commercial fishing as a traditional use on Rainy Lake, management strategies and tactics must address the economic and social benefits of commercial harvesting in relation to the problems of walleye degradation and user conflicts. The need to optimize the economic

and social benefits derived through use of the walleye resource has limited the management options available for the commercial fishery. Because of the selectivity of the commercial fishery for larger walleye, conflicts with other users and the limited economic return for each walleye harvested the district feels that maintaining commercial walleye harvests does not represent the best use of the resource. The public is supportive of this position. The district intends to eliminate walleye quotas through governmental purchase or trading for quotas on other species. All quota purchases would be developed on the willing buyer/willing seller basis. Walleye quotas would not be reallocated. Similarly, the transfer of walleye and northern pike quotas would not be permitted should commercial licences be sold outside of the context of governmental purchase.

Some fishermen may not be prepared to continue fishing after purchase of walleye quotas and this may be an opportunity to consolidate some licences to give the remaining fishermen greater economic viability. The level at which the commercial fishery stabilizes will be largely dependent upon the willingness of commercial fishermen to use alternative species. Obviously the use of alternative species is only viable if they can be marketed and fishermen would be encouraged to investigate and develop appropriate markets. The concern was raised by the tourist industry that increasing the harvest of alternative species would cause the development of an overharvest situation such as is currently being experienced for walleye. This is a valid concern that will be mitigated through the application of quotas and consideration of the most appropriate harvest method and period coupled with catch monitoring.

As an additional comment, commercial fishermen suggest that trading for quotas on other species not be considered unless there is some assurance that they could harvest this quota. The district has indicated that there is a surplus of black crappie and yellow perch which is available to commercial fishermen. The inclusion of black crappie as an alternative species assumes that Rainy Lake is to be managed for walleye. The district will seek clarification from the public on this management direction.

Concurrent to the elimination of walleye quotas the tourist industry and angling public have suggested the need for commercial fishermen to use impounding gear to reduce the incidental harvest of walleye. The district will be investigating the use of alternate gear in specific situations so as to reduce the selectivity of the commercial harvest and incidental catches.

The suggestion of moving commercial fisheries to other lakes is not considered a viable option primarily because the walleye resource in the district appears to be fully

utilized. Commercial fisheries moved to other lakes would have to be allocated underutilized species such as whitefish and the district has not identified any other lakes where viable commercial fisheries could be developed.

While the development of a more intensive and extensive assessment program has not been considered by the public it is apparent that such a program is a prerequisite for success of management efforts. An assessment program would include increased enforcement efforts, stock assessment within the context of the fish community, harvest monitoring and gear investigations.

COMMERCIAL FISH (BAIT)

OBJECTIVE

To encourage the baitfish industry to meet demands for baitfish through natural and artificial culture providing that the expansions have no detrimental effects on either the sportfish or baitfish industries.

TARGET

To meet the projected baitfish demand of 244,000 dozen in the year 2000 through natural and artificial culture.

PROBLEMS

The problem of most concern to both the baitfish and tourist industries appears to be baitfish licence demand which exceeds baitfish block availability. While there is some demand for new licences by baitfishermen operating on baitfish blocks, most licence demands are generated by private land owners and certain tourist facilities. The greatest annual demand comes from private land owners who wish to trap baitfish on a part-time basis from waterbodies located on or adjacent to their properties. Concern by specific tourist facilities that the baitfish industry cannot supply their needs promotes application for area specific licences. The baitfish industry is concerned with the economics of individual profit at increased levels of licensing and the development of baitfish overharvesting. The baitfish industry is also concerned that excessive baitfish wastage may occur due to the use of inadequate holding equipment if the number of licencees is permitted to increase further.

The baitfish and tourist industries have expressed concern that production of baitfish may be jeopardized as a result of timber harvesting in the vicinity of baitfish lakes. Expanding road access associated with timber harvesting has also been

identified as a factor which could compromise long term baitfish production. The industry is concerned that anglers would harvest excessive quantities of bait from lakes adjacent to the roads.

The need for accurate quantification of baitfish harvests and the need to increase the baitfishermen awareness of annual returns as a monitoring tool, while not considered major problems, were recognized by both industries.

In one instance, the concern was raised that overharvesting of baitfish was occurring and more strict harvest regulation of harvests should occur. However, the district does not feel that overharvesting is occurring at this time and feels confident that the baitfish industry and MNR would cooperate to prevent the development of such a situation.

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF STRATEGIES

To promote baitfish industry stability and viability, protect baitfish populations and habitat and improve communications between the baitfish industry, tourist industry and client groups.

Promote baitfish industry stability and viability by:

- i/ Maintaining the block licencing system but consolidating licences for block subdivisions into single blocks through negotiation with the licencees.
- ii/ Limiting the number of baitfish licences issued to private land owners who do not control access to the waterbodies where they intend to harvest baitfish. Existing licences will not be reissued if they are not used.

Protect baitfish populations and habitat by:

- iii/ Implementing a comprehensive baitfish assessment program which will include monitoring of baitfish holding facilities to ensure adequate equipment, intensified enforcement of pertinent acts and regulations and development of a harvest reporting form in consultation with the baitfish industry.
- iv/ Encouraging a university study of the relationship between baitfish abundance and timber harvesting activities.

- v/ Continuing to provide protection to specific waterbodies known to be harvested for baitfish through the application of the fish habitat guidelines particularly in the timber management planning process.

Improve communications between the baitfish industry, tourist industry, MNR and client groups by:

- vi/ Providing the means by which each group can enter into meaningful discussions concerning their needs and concerns. Such means would include workshops, attendance at respective association meetings and involvement of both industries in fisheries management planning.

DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIES, TACTICS AND PUBLIC INPUT

If the above mentioned problems and concerns are to be resolved then management strategies must incorporate a basic commitment to promoting baitfish industry stability and viability. Since industry viability is intimately related to the resource base, there must be the commitment to protect baitfish habitat, maintain baitfish populations and to develop more effective communication between all groups concerned with the baitfish resource. Both the tourist and baitfish industries and local sportsman's club have indicated that an effective baitfish management strategy must incorporate these components.

In terms of tactics to promote industry stability and viability, there is an obvious need to limit entry to the baitfish industry. The subdivision of existing baitfish blocks to accommodate licencing demands is not acceptable to the baitfish industry. The district will not be subdividing blocks as this approach does not promote industry viability and the wise use of the baitfish resource. The approach most acceptable to user groups appears to be the maintenance of the existing baitfish block system. The district would like to reduce the number of licences for block subdivisions because of the administration and management problems they promote. The district intends to consolidate licences for subdivisions under single blocks through negotiation with the licencees.

There is also a need to limit and reduce the number of licences issued to private land owners who do not control access to the waterbodies where they intend to harvest baitfish. At the same time there is a need to stimulate cooperation between licenced baitfishermen and land owners for the development of baitfish management initiatives such as cooperative harvesting.

While the district recognizes the concerns of the tourist industry in regard to area specific licencing it is felt that some reduction in demand for such licences could be achieved through greater communication between the two industries. In the interim, while such communication is developing, a review of area specific licencing will be conducted and tourist facilities asked to substantiate actual need due to non-supply.

While there is a need to limit entry to the baifish industry to some extent it is not the intent of managers to allow the development of baitfish harvesting monopolies or to restrict free enterprise. To maintain a stable and healthy industry requires the periodic infusion of new ideas and approaches and some level of competition. This ensures that the baitfish industry will evolve with changes in angler attitudes and demands.

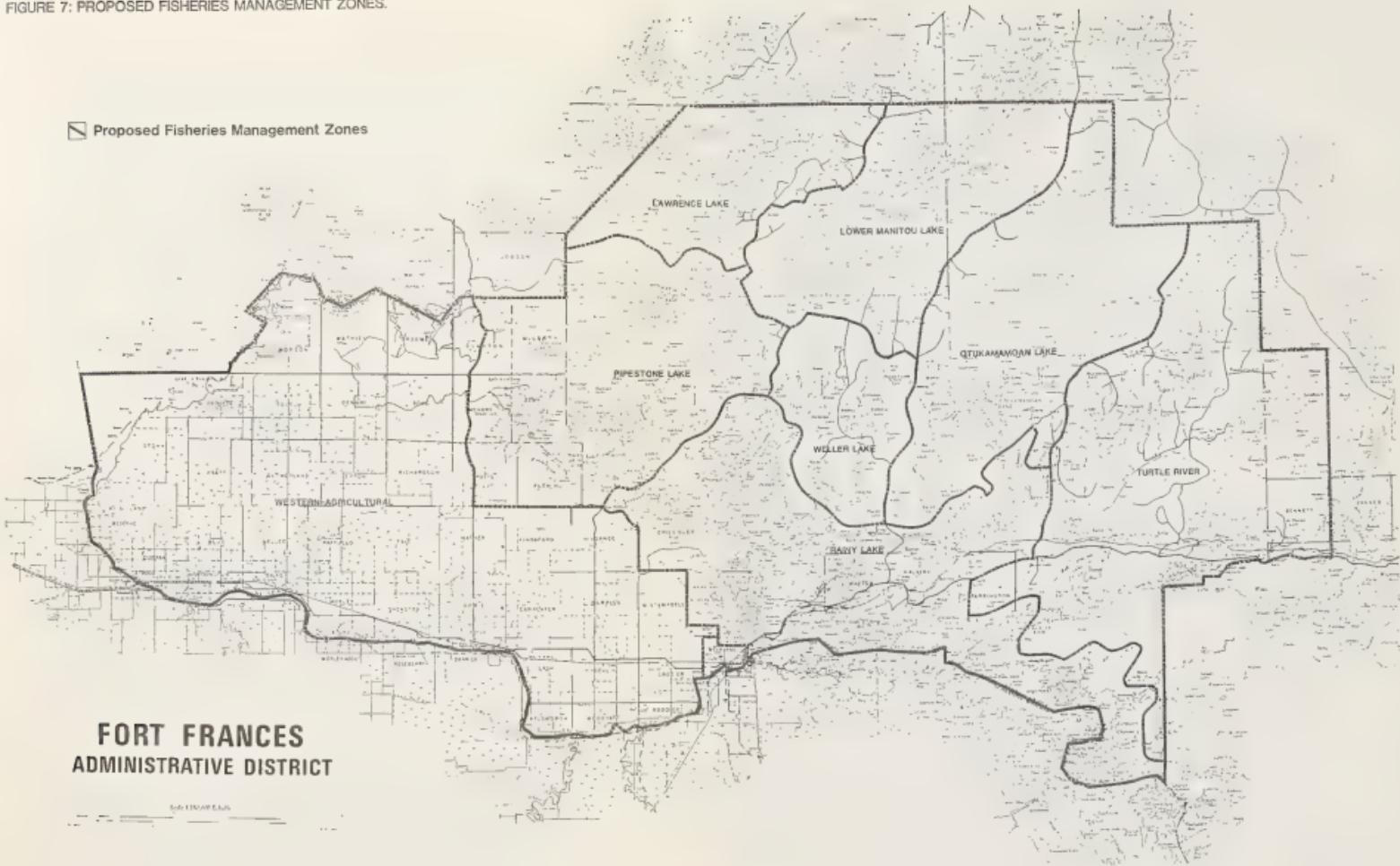
The baitfish and tourist industries and local sportsmen realize that there is very little information to support the perception that timber harvesting is detrimental to baitfish habitat and/or populations, but feel that a conservative approach is warranted until the relationship between baitfish abundance and timber harvesting on shorelines can be investigated. It is the districts opinion that timber harvesting on the shorelines of baitfish lakes will probably increase baitfish productivity. The district is prepared to apply protection to baitfish lakes using the fish habitat guidelines where concerns have been identified. For this approach to be effective it is incumbent upon the baitfish industry to actively participate in this aspect of management through the provision of information concerning the baitfish resource and their use of it.

All management tactics applied to the solution of baitfish problems and concerns require a strong foundation based on effective communication and cooperation among managers and user groups. Such communication and cooperation is particularly important if a reduction in area specific licencing and improvement in the quality and consistency of harvest reporting is to be realized. With respect to reporting, the baitfish industry has already indicated a willingness to assist in the reorganization of reporting forms for more accurate quantification of district baitfish harvests. Similarly, the tourist industry and MNR have indicated their need and desire to improve communications to ensure maintenance of the baitfish resource and the social and economic benefits derived through it. If there is not this commitment to greater communication and cooperation then management efforts will be ineffective.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Because of differences in the distribution pattern of users and the resource across the district the use of a series of zones to assess the district fishery and management efforts is proposed. The zones described in Fig. 7 are proposed for several reasons. Firstly they approximate the land use zones established in DLUG; therefore the DLUG activity recommendations could be applied to each zone. Secondly, they appear to offer a reasonable separation of areas having similar characteristics. Thirdly, the boundaries are based on permanent road systems and could be easily identified by the public. These zones will not be established in legislation at this time. The district intends to use these zones as the logical basis for the systematic collection of information related to species harvests, angler origin and angling pressure. This information will be used to assess the influence of the Crownland Recreation Program on the sportfish and lake trout fisheries and will provide the basis for more precise management. Further quantification of such characteristics as harvest intensity could permit, in future, certain management tactics to be selectively applied and varied in their intensity between zones if necessary. Increasing the effectiveness of certain tactics will assist in achieving the stated management objectives.

FIGURE 7: PROPOSED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ZONES.



IMPLEMENTATION

The strategies and tactics identified in the text above will be phased in during successive 5 year intervals to the year 2000. The specific tactics that will be implemented during the first 5 year period are described in Tables 2,3,4 and 5. Certain tactics have already been implemented in the district and have been termed "existing programs" while other tactics not currently in place are termed "new initiatives".

Responsibility for preparation of this plan lies with the District Manager while the responsibility for approval rests with the Regional Director. The plan will be reviewed every 5 years or when major revisions are deemed necessary. Significant modifications to the plan will follow the same approval process as the original document.

Approved changes will be reflected in the District Land Use Guidelines. Likewise, changes in the District Land Use Guidelines may cause revision of the management plan.

Not all program areas can be addressed in the first 5 year interval. Although all are of concern, there is a need to establish scheduling priorities. Program priorities are a function of issue to be solved. Scheduling of these priorities is largely dependent upon the nature of the problem to be solved and existing program work load. For example the district is actively involved in the Angler Validation Tag and Crownland Recreation Programs. These programs will influence, to a large degree, the direction taken in the management of the districts fisheries resources. In many cases the operations described in the 5 year implementation schedule will be a continuation of the programs routinely undertaken ie. plan input and review, administration of the commercial fishery. These operations already exist in the district program base. However, certain management tactics represent new initiatives and require additional funding and staff. How much the district can deliver in the course of 5 years will depend largely upon the availability of funding and staff. It must keep in mind that the provincial funding is limited and at the same time as the Fort Frances district plan is being implemented there are 46 other districts to consider. Should an Ontario resident angling licence become a reality additional dollars will be available to take on new initiatives.

Of priority during the first 5 year implementation period is the need to strengthen the data base on lake trout and walleye harvests from district waters with emphasis on assessment of the influence of the Crownland Recreation Program. Similarly, on Rainy Lake the influence of the Angler Validation Tag Program on walleye harvests will be assessed prior to the implementation of harvest control tactics. Elimination of commercial walleye quotas and reduction of the commercial fishery on Rainy Lake are also a priority during the first 5 year implementation period.

TABLE 2: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR LAKE TROUT MANAGEMENT TACTICS FOR THE FORT FRANCES DISTRICT, 1986-90.

TACTIC	EXISTING PROGRAM	NEW INITIATIVE	LEGISLATIVE CHANGES REQUIRED
IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO ASSESS THE ANNUAL HARVEST AND DISTRIBUTION OF LAKE TROUT ANGLING PRESSURE WITH EMPHASIS ON THE CROWNLAND EXAMINATION PROGRAM AND ITS INFLUENCE ON ANGLER ACTIVITY. (ACCESS CREELS, EXAMINATION OF HARVESTING BY ANGLERS USING TOURIST FACILITIES AND BOAT CACHES IN RELATION TO THE LAKE TROUT RESOURCE)	X	X	NO
PROTECT LAKE TROUT BROOD STOCK THROUGH CLOSURE OF THE LAKE TROUT SEASON ON SEPTEMBER 15.	X	YES	NO
EXPAND ROAD ACCESS IN AREAS WHERE NO TOURISM VALUES EXIST TO ACHIEVE A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF ANGLING PRESSURE.	X	X	NO
IMPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT PLAN.	X	X	NO
INCREASE OFFICER PRESENCE ON HEAVILY UTILIZED LAKE TROUT LAKES.	X	X	NO
PREPARE THE EXPANSION OF TOURIST FACILITIES ON LAKE TROUT LAKES CONSISTENT WITH THE DLUG RECOMMENDATIONS.	X	X	NO
CONTINUE TO PROTECT FISH HABITAT THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF FISH HABITAT GUIDELINES PARTICULARLY IN THE TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS.	X	X	NO
CONDUCT LAKE SURVEYS OF 8 LAKES ANNUALLY TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER LAKE TROUT LAKES AND CRITICAL HABITATS.	X	X	NO
CONTINUE TO MAKE INPUT TO RESOURCE EXTRACTION PROPOSALS USING CURRENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES.	X	X	NO
CONTROL ROAD ACCESS TO PROTECT TOURISM VALUES IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS WHERE IT IS PRACTICAL, EFFECTIVE AND CONSISTENT WITH OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND POLICIES.	X	X	NO

TABLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR SPORTFISH MANAGEMENT TACTICS, FORT FRANCES DISTRICT, 1986-90.

	EXISTING PROGRAM	NEW INITIATIVE PROGRAM	LEGISLATIVE CHANGES REQUIRED
RAINY LAKE			
MANIPULATING THE ANGLER VALIDATION TAG NUMBERS, TAG FEES OR THE NUMBER OF WALLEYE TAKEN UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A VALIDATION TAG IF THE CURRENT ANGLER VALIDATION TAG PROGRAM IS INSUFFICIENT IN LIMITING WALLEYE HARVESTS BY NON-ONTARIO BASED NON-RESIDENTS.	X	YES	YES
ESTABLISH SLOT SIZE RESTRICTIONS FOR NORTHERN PIKE.	X	YES	YES
ESTABLISH SANCTUARIES (MARCH 15 - MAY 31) ON THE FOLLOWING WALLEYE SPAWNING AREAS: WASAN BAY, STANJIKONGING BAY, HALFWAY INLET, DEVILS CASCADE, BIG CANOE RIVER, LITTLE CANOE RIVER AND STOKES BAY.	X	YES	YES
ESTABLISH SANCTUARIES (MARCH 15 - MAY 31) ON THE FOLLOWING NORTHERN PIKE SPAWNING AREAS; RAT ROOT BAY, GRASSY NARROWS BAY, BLACK STURGEON BAY AND RAT RIVER BAY.	X	YES	YES
NEGOTIATE A CHANGE IN THE RAINY LAKE WATER LEVEL "RULE CURVE" WITH THE IJC SO THAT ADEQUATE WATER LEVELS CAN BE MAINTAINED DURING THE WALLEYE SPAWNING AND INCUBATION PERIOD.	X	YES	YES
REHABILITATE OR ENHANCE WALLEYE SPAWNING AREAS AT WASAN CREEK, DEVILS CASCADE, BIG CANOE RIVER AND LITTLE CANOE RIVER THROUGH THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL CLUBS AND THE TOURIST INDUSTRY IN CFIP.	X	NO	NO
IMPLEMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS TO QUANTIFY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ANGLER VALIDATION TAG PROGRAM FOR LIMITING WALLEYE HARVESTS AND THE STATUS OF FISH POPULATIONS.	X	NO	NO
EXPAND THE WALLEYE CULTURE PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE AN ANNUAL PRODUCTION TARGET OF 100,000 WALLEYE FINGERLINGS ANNUALLY.	X	NO	NO
EXPAND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RAINY LAKE ENFORCEMENT PLAN.	X	NO	NO
INCREASE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH ASSIGNMENT OF AN OFFICER SPECIFICALLY TO RAINY LAKE.	X	NO	NO
PROHIBIT THE EXPANSION OF TOURIST FACILITIES ON THE NORTH ARM CONSISTENT WITH THE DLOC RECOMMENDATIONS.	X	NO	NO
CONTINUE TO PROTECT AQUATIC HABITATS THROUGH INPUT INTO THE TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS AND OTHER RESOURCE EXTRACTION PROPOSALS USING THE FISH HABITAT GUIDELINES.	X	NO	NO
EXPAND THE HABITAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR MONITORING THE LIMNOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RAINY LAKE AND IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL SPAWNING AREAS.	X	NO	NO

TABLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR SPORTFISH MANAGEMENT TACTICS CONTINUED.

TACTIC	EXISTING PROGRAM	NEW INITIATIVE	LEGISLATIVE CHANGES REQUIRED
DISTRICT LAKES			
IMPLEMENT AN ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TO MONITOR HARVESTING (CREEL CENSUS) AND FISH POPULATION STATUS, PARTICULARLY FOR WALLEYE, AND TO LOOK AT THE INFLUENCE OF THE CROWNLAND RECREATION PROGRAM ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND INTENSITY OF ANGLING PRESSURE.	X	X	NO
PROTECT WALLEYE BROOD STOCK THROUGH SEASON CLOSURE ON MARCH 15.	X	X	YES
EVALUATE THE SUITABILITY OF ELDRIDGE LAKE, VEDETTE LAKE, BIG SANDBILL LAKE, HERON LAKE AND UNKNOWN LAKE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WALLEYE POPULATIONS THROUGH ADULT WALLEYE TRANSFERS.	X	X	NO
FACILITATE A REDISTRIBUTION OF ANGLING PRESSURE BY ENCOURAGING THE SYSTEMATIC ROAD ACCESS DEVELOPMENT IN SPECIFIC AREAS CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING.	X	X	NO
INCREASE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT PLAN.	X	X	NO
INCREASE OFFICER PRESENCE ON HEAVILY UTILIZED WATERBODIES.	X	X	NO
PROHIBIT THE EXPANSION OF TOURIST FACILITIES ON DISTRICT LAKES CONSISTENT WITH THE DLUG RECOMMENDATIONS.	X	X	NO
PROTECT FISH HABITAT THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF FISH HABITAT GUIDELINES PARTICULARLY IN THE TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS.	X	X	NO
CONDUCT LAKE SURVEYS ON 8 LAKES ANNUALLY.	X	X	NO
CONTINUE TO MAKE INPUT TO RESOURCE EXTRACTION PROPOSALS USING CURRENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES.	X	X	NO
CONTROL ROAD ACCESS TO PROTECT TOURISM VALUES WHERE IT IS PRACTICAL, EFFECTIVE AND CONSISTENT WITH OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND POLICIES.	X	X	NO

TABLE 4: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR COMMERCIAL FISH MANAGEMENT TACTICS, FORT FRANCES DISTRICT, 1986-90.

TACTIC	EXISTING PROGRAM	NEW INITIATIVE	LEGISLATIVE CHANGES REQUIRED
ELIMINATE WALLEYE QUOTAS ON RAINY LAKE THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASE OR TRADING FOR OTHER SPECIES QUOTAS.	X	X	NO
REDUCE THE LEVEL OF COMMERCIAL FISHING ON RAINY LAKE THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASE OF SELECTED LICENCES.	X	X	NO
REFINING THE COMMERCIAL FISH TARGET FOR RAINY LAKE IN RELATION TO THE USE OF UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES, WALLEYE QUOTA ELIMINATION AND REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL LICENCES	X	X	NO
CONTINUE MONITORING PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES INTENSIFIED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND COMMERCIAL HARVEST MONITORING.	X	X	NO
CONTINUE AN ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR EVALUATING THE STATUS OF COMMERCIALLY FISHED STOCKS.	X	X	NO
MAINTAIN EXISTING SPECIES QUOTAS ON COMMERCIALLY FISHED LAKES OTHER THAN RAINY LAKE.	X	X	NO
MAINTAIN EXISTING QUOTAS FOR NORTHERN PIKE AND LAKE WHITEFISH ON RAINY LAKE UNTIL THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS THESE STOCKS IS COMPLETED.	X	X	NO

TABLE 5: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR BAITFISH MANAGEMENT TACTICS, FORT FRANCES DISTRICT, 1986-90.

TACTIC	EXISTING PROGRAM	NEW PROGRAM	INITIATIVE	LEGISLATIVE CHANGES REQUIRED
MAINTAIN THE EXISTING BLOCK LICENCING SYSTEM BUT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF LICENCES FOR BLOCK SUBDIVISIONS.	X	X	NO	
CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO SPECIFIC WATERBODIES WHERE BAITFISH CONCERN HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE FISH HABITAT GUIDELINES PARTICULARLY DURING THE TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS.	X	X	NO	
LIMIT THE NUMBER OF LICENCES ISSUED TO PRIVATE LAND OWNERS WHO DO NOT CONTROL ACCESS TO THE WATERBODIES WHERE THEY INTEND TO HARVEST BAIT.		X	NO	
IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE BAITFISH ASSESSMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL INCLUDE MONITORING TO BAITFISH HOLDING FACILITIES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INTENSIFIED ENFORCEMENT OF PERTINENT ACTS AND REGULATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF A HARVEST REPORTING FORM IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BAITFISH INDUSTRY.		X	NO	

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS.

ANGLER DAY

While it is usually accepted that any amount of effort in a day constitutes one angler day, for the purposes of converting angler hours to angler days, 4 hours will be used.

ANGLER VALIDATION TAG PROGRAM

A program implemented in 1985 on Rainy Lake, Rainy River and Lake of the Woods whose intent was to limit sportfish harvests on these waterbodies by non-Ontario based non-residents, obtain a form of resource rent for use of Ontario's fisheries resources by this user group and encourage use of existing tourist facilities.

BAITFISH

Any fish that are legally harvested by the commercial baitfish industry.

COLDWATER LAKES

Those lakes having characteristics which would support Salmonids (lake trout, brook trout).

COMMERCIAL FISH

Any fish that are legally harvested by the commercial fishing industry.

CRITICAL FISH HABITAT

Any fish habitat required for the maintenance of a healthy fish population or otherwise identified as essential to the achievement of the Ministry's fishery program objectives.

CROWNLAND RECREATION PROGRAM

An initiative implemented in 1984 within the Northwestern Administrative Region. The intent of this initiative was to encourage non-Ontario based non-residents to use existing tourist facilities and thereby contribute to local and provincial economies through use of Ontario's fisheries resources and to generate revenue from non-resident use of crownland. In addition, this program involves the designation of areas closed to non-resident camping to redistribute use away from sensitive fisheries.

GOAL

A general purpose to which the Ministry aspires.

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS (CONTINUED).

HARVEST

Fish taken and kept by resource users.

MANAGEMENT

The judicious use of means to achieve specific ends. Management may have various levels of intensity depending on the level of resource use. For example, if a high degree of technology is used or if very careful tending is required, the management is high level.

NON-RESIDENT

An angler whose principle residence is outside of Ontario.

NORTH OR NORTHERN ONTARIO

Northwestern and northeastern planning regions include the following districts: Dryden, Fort Frances, Ignace, Kenora, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, Atikokan, Geraldton, Nipigon, Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay, Blind River, Espanola, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Temagami, Wawa, Chapleau, Cochrane, Gogama, Hearst, Kapuskasing, Kirkland Lake, Moosonee, and Timmins.

OBJECTIVE

A quantifiable and attainable end which the Ministry's efforts are intended to accomplish.

OCCASION

A measure of actual recreational use describing the number of times a recreational reserve or facility is used by individuals in a given time period. An occasion is not considered to exceed one day in duration.

ONTARIO BASED

Pertains to non-residents who have established a base of operations in Ontario. To establish a base of operations a non-resident must be a guest of a commercial tourist facility, cottage owner or guest of the owner or guest of another facility that can produce the documentation necessary to substantiate a claim of being Ontario based.

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS (CONTINUED).

OPPORTUNITY

A measure of recreation supply which is used to describe the number of times a resource or facility can be used (occasions of use) in a given time period. An opportunity is considered not to be greater than one day.

OVERHARVESTING

Harvests of fish by all users which exceeds the annual potential yield.

POTENTIAL YIELD

The amount of fish flesh that can be removed from the water on a sustained basis.

PLANNING AREA

The area for which the planning process is carried out and for which a resource management plan is prepared.

POLICY

The decision concerning the objectives to be achieved and the means for achieving them. For resource management planning, we are mainly concerned with the objectives, targets, strategies and tactics.

RESIDENT

An angler whose principle residence is in Ontario. A local resident would be one who can fish an area on a day use basis, ie. travel to the area, fish, and return to his home on the same day.

SOUTH OR SOUTHERN ONTARIO

The southern planning region includes the following districts: Algonquin Park, Parry Sound, Pembroke, Cambridge, Huronia, Lindsay, Maple, Niagara, Brockville, Carleton Place, Cornwall, Napanee, Tweed, Aylmer, Chatham, Owen Sound, Simcoe, and Wingham.

SPORTFISH

Any fish that are legally caught by angling.

STRATEGY

Broadly planned actions or measures to achieve a desired end.

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS (CONTINUED).

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The wise use of a particular resource such as fish to achieve a specific end.

TACTIC

A method devised to achieve one or more strategies.

TARGET

A quantifiable end to be achieved or completed by a specific date.

TOURIST

A non-resident of Ontario.

TOURIST FACILITIES

Include lodges, outpost camps and boat caches.

UNDERPRODUCING WATERS

Waters from which the production is constrained because of stresses such as water quality, species composition, over harvesting or undesirable species.

WARMWATER LAKES

Those lakes other than coldwater lakes.

WARMWATER STREAMS

Those streams other than coldwater streams.

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANNING OPEN HOUSE HELD OF DECEMBER 10, 1985.

BUSINESSES \ ASSOC./ CLUBS GOV'T AGENCIES NATIVE PEOPLE RES. | TOTAL

SUBJECT INDUSTRY ORGANIZ.

AGENCIES

CTOA(1)

4

5

CTOA(1)

4

5

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

DETAILED BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

FISHERIES RESOURCES

RESOURCE USERS

CURRENT AND PROJECTED

RESOURCE USE

TARGET TESTING

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

NBBA(5) FFSC(1)
NWOIA(7) RLSC(2)

OPTIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

NBBA(6) FFSC(7)
NWOIA(11) RLSC(1)

OPTIONAL MANAGEMENT TACTICS

NWOIA(31) FFSC(9)
RLSC(7)

PUBLIC REVIEW

NWOIA(4)

OTHER

TOTALS

NBBA(11) FFSC(17)
NWOIA(53) RLSC(11)

CTOA(1)

4

5



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister

Mary Mogford
Deputy Minister

**Fort Frances District
Fisheries Management Plan
C O M M E N T S H E E T**

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